**Annex**

**Terms of Reference**

**Consultancy to maintain/improve the NBDC partnership for influencing national policy and institutional change in rainwater management in Ethiopia**

**Consultant: Belay Demissie Yazew**

**Background**

The Nile Basin Development Challenge (Nile BDC) is funded by the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) to improve the resilience of rural livelihoods in the Ethiopian highlands through a Landscape (watershed) approach to rain water management. The Program is led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and implemented in collaboration with various national research partners. The Program was commenced in Jan 2010 and will end by Dec 2013. The Nile BDC comprises five interlinked projects:

1. Learning about rainwater management systems. A review of past and ongoing activities, an inventory of actors, and identification of best practices for dissemination and use;
2. Integrating technologies, policies and institutions through the development of integrated rainwater management strategies in three action sites (Fogera, Diga, Jeldu) to slow down land degradation and reduce downstream siltation;
3. Targeting and scaling out of rainwater management systems by ‘matching’ promising technologies with particular (biophysical and socio-institutional) environments;
4. Assessing and anticipating the consequences of innovation in rain water management systems at the basin level; and
5. Coordination & Change, which includes M&E and gender, fostering innovation at basin level, and communication.

As part of project (5), the Nile BDC established a National Platform on land and water management in Ethiopia in April 2011. We brought on board more than 80 people from at least 50 organizations and institutes, representing politics, government, research, NGO/CBOs, private sectors, donors, etc. The establishment of a National Platform was widely supported, not the least by the Ministry of Agriculture. The national platform can become a mechanism to enhance communication between actors and across sectors for improved land and water management in the Nile Basin and beyond.

So far the national platform has met three times. To structure the discussions at the national level ‘Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)’ have been established around technological innovation, institutional innovation, policy support, and climate change and resilience. These communities of practice are expected to identify best practices and constraints for scaling up through so-called learning events. In the last year of operation, the Nile BDC would like to capitalize on the lessons learned in the various Nile BDC projects and make use of the National Platform and the thematic working groups for influencing national policy and institutions.

**These Terms of Reference outline a consultancy assignment for an Ethiopian National with the overall objective to influence national policy and institutional change through the National Platform interface with key players/actors.**

**Tasks**

The main tasks of the consultancy assignment are:

* Maintain/improve the current Nile BDC partnership for influencing Ethiopian national and regional policy in rainwater management systems;
* Promote Nile BDC activities in ministries (Agriculture and Water and Energy) and their associated agencies;
* Understand and assist how to influence policy and best practice and what these needs might be
* Broker linkages between organizations and sectors to advance Nile BDC objectives in Ethiopia, such as River Basin Authorities.

The national consultant is expected to work or have experience in land and water management, have good networks in this field, and good contacts at the policy level. He will be expected to work in close collaboration with Kees Swaans (ILRI), who is overall responsible for fostering innovation in the Nile BDC, and with the Nile BDC leaders, i.e. Simon Langan (IWMI) and Alan Duncan (ILRI).

**Duration, timeframe and activities**

The timeframe of the assignment will be in line with the remaining time of the project, i.e. 1 December 2012- 31 December 2013. The total duration of the assignment (i.e. total number of days) will be discussed and agreed upon with the consultant before signing.

Key activities will include:

* Contribute/develop strategy for remainder of project duration on how best to meet the outlined tasks mentioned above
* Participate in monthly and key Nile BDC meetings, such as planning and reflection meetings
* Preparation of and participation in national steering committee meetings (twice a year)
* Facilitate and organize National Platform meetings to improve the current Nile BDC partnership for influencing national and regional policies in rain water management systems (2x per year)
* Facilitate/support linkages between Nile BDC projects and the National Platform with the aim to build networks/partnerships, and identify key lessons, constraints, and opportunities
* Capacitate/support linkages between local learning through local innovation platforms and regional/national dialogue in the national platform and thematic working groups and linking them with emerging opportunities and projects, as well as entry points to policy forums.
* Contribute to media for documentation, communication and dissemination (i.e. website, briefs, etc.) (products will be part of overall communication strategy of Nile BDC)
* Develop strategy and identify resources/opportunities for sustaining the National Platform after the Nile BDC project funding has ended (end 2013)

For facilitation of meetings of the national platform and/or other activities, the consultant will be expected to work closely with the Knowledge Management and Information Systems unit of ILRI. He can further count on logistical support for organizational aspects and documentation.

Deliverables/outputs: The national consultant is expected to deliver detailed reports of meetings and activities. Progress will be reported in quarterly progress reports according to guidelines agreed upon on signing. Data for delivering will be discussed and agreed up with ILRI/IWMI before the assignment.

**More information:**

**Kees Swaans** | ILRI Scientist, Innovation in Livestock Systems |Email: [k.swaans@cgiar.org](mailto:k.swaans@cgiar.org)